

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12

OES-03 AID-05 HEW-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 /107 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2495

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3060

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO IS

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH WHO DG MAHLER ON HIS RECENT
ALGERIA TRIP AND ON ISRAELI-ARAB, PRG AND DRB ISSUES
AFFECTING 28TH WHA

REF: STATE 95257

1. REFERENCE PARA 1 OF REFTTEL, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
ON TACTIC SUGGESTED BY FEDELE BEING SOUGHT AND WILL BE
REPORTED ASAP. SINCE DG MAHLER'S RETURN FROM ALGERIA
LAST WEEKEND, THERE IS GREAT RELUCTANCE ON PART OF WHO
SECRETARIAT TO DISCUSS ISRAELI-ARAB ISSUE WITH ANYONE
OUTSIDE WHO (SEE BELOW).

2. REFERENCE PARA 3 OF REFTTEL, MISOFF MET WITH DG
MAHLER APRIL 28 ON THE SUBJECT OF HIS RECENT TRIP TO
ALGERIA.

3. MAHLER OPENED CONVERSATION BY REFERRING ANGRILY TO
A UPI RELEASE OF APRIL 25, DESCRIBING THE PURPOSE OF
HIS TRIP TO ALGERIA AND MENTIONING THE POSSIBILITY OF
ARTICLE SEVEN ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL DURING THE FORTH-
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COMING WHA BY CERTAIN ARAB BLOC COUNTRIES. UPI RELEASE

HAS NOT YET APPEARED IN EUROPEAN PRESS OR HERALD TRIBUNE
BUT WAS BROADCAST OVER SWISS RADIO.

4. MAHLER THEN STATED THERE WERE NO CONCRETE RESULTS
FROM HIS TRIP. HE EXPLAINED SINCE THE ALGERIANS DID
NOT BRING UP ISRAEL, NEITHER DID HE. HE MADE A BIG POINT
OF REPEATING IT HAD NEVER BEEN HIS INTENTION TO RECOMMEND
OR EVEN DISCUSS WHAT THE ALGERIANS SHOULD OR SHOULD NO
DO CONCERNING ISRAEL. "SO THERE IS NO NEW NEWS", HE SAID.

5. MAHLER THEN RETURNED TO THE UPI RELEASE, SAYING HE
WOULD FIRE ANYONE ON HIS STAFF IF HE FOUND ANY EVIDENCE
OF A LEAK ON HIS ALGERIA TRIP. HE EMPHASIZED HIS
POSITION OF NEUTRALITY ON POLITICAL MATTERS AFFECTING
WHO IS WELL KNOWN. HE DISAGREED HE HAD EVER INDIATED
TO ANYONE, INCLUDING THE US, HE WAS GOING TO ALGERIA
TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF ARTICLE SEVEN ACTION AGAINST
ISRAEL. WITH MIXED METAPHORS HE THEN SAID: "NO
COUNTRY IS GOING TO PASS THE BUCK INTO THE LAP OF
MAHLER".

6. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSIONS WITH WHO ADG FURTHER LATER
IN DAY, MISOFF WAS TOLD MAHLER BELIEVES US IS SOURCE
OF INFORMATION ON HIS ALGERIA TRIP RESULTING IN UPI
RELEASE. FURTH ADDED MAHLER BELIEVES US DID THIS IN
EFFORT TO HELP WHO BUT THINKS THE STRATEGY IS WRONG.
REPORTING OFFICER TOLD FURTH IT WAS MORE LIKELY A LEAK
FROM MAHLER'S STAFF OR FROM SOME OTHER MISSION IN
GENEVA. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT MAHLER WAS RELUCTANT
TO DISCUSS HIS ALGERIA TRIP WITH FOREIGN MISSION REPRE-
SENTATIVES. ALTHOUGH HE REMAINED VERY CORDIAL, HIS
COMMENT THAT NO COUNTRY IS GOING TO PASS THE BUCK TO
MAHLER MAY HAVE BEEN US-DIRECTED.

7. NEW SUBJECT: IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HOW DOES
HE VIEW 28TH WHA IN LIGHT OF ISRAEL, PRG AND DRV ISSUES,
MAHLER SAID: "MY APPROACH HAS BEEN AND WILL BE NOT TO
ROCK THE BOAT; TO AVOID AT ALL COSTS ANY PROVOCATION,
ESPECIALLY ON THE ISRAEL ISSUE. AS FOR PRG AND DRV,
THOSE ISSUES WILL MOST LIKELY HAVE BEEN RESOLVED BY THE
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TIME OF THE ASSEMBLY".

8. COMMENT: THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION MAHLER AND
SECRETARIAT ARE APPREHENSIVE AND NERVOUS ON THE ISRAELI
ISSUE AND ON WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE SOMEWHAT RISKY
EFFORTS BY THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN HELPING WHO
OUT. ONCE MAHLR SAID: "THE SITUATION AT THE WHA COULD BE
DANGEROUS. BUT IF EVERYONE WILL JUST PLAY IT COOL, IT

COULD ALL WORK OUT". THE IMPLICATION HERE, NOTWITH-
STANDING THE PAUCITY OF INFORMATION MAHLER PROVIDED ON
HIS ALGERIA TRIP, IS THAT IF THE US AND OTHERS WILL
STOP TALKING UP THE ISRAELI-ARAB ISSUE, MAHLER CAN BE
MORE HOPEFUL AND LESS NERVOUS, AS A RESULT OF HIS
MEETINGS IN ALGERIA, THAT NOTHING WORSE THAN ARAB
CENSURE OF ISRAEL WILL OCCUR DURING THE WHA.
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